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Subject: EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines - Thursday, April 4, 2019

EPA Mid-Atlantic Region Headlines

Thursday, April 4, 2019

*** DAILY HOT LIST ***

Governors of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware join Maryland in asking for more Chesapeake Bay funding

BALTIMORE SUN Pennsylvania, Virginia and Delaware and the mayor of Washington, D.C., joined Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan in asking Congressional leaders to increase the federal budget for Chesapeake Bay cleanup Tuesday. In a letter released Wednesday, they called on House and Senate committee leaders to spend \$90 million on the federal Chesapeake Bay Program, 23 percent more than the initiative's current budget. Hogan sent a similar letter to top Capitol Hill officials last month, after President Donald Trump's administration proposed cutting the bay program's budget by 90 percent. The bay program, an office of the Environmental Protection Agency based in Annapolis, is seen as a backstop to ensure state and local governments across the Chesapeake watershed do their part to reduce water pollution. "After three decades of collaboration with our federal and jurisdiction partners we are witnessing measured improvements towards clean water," the officials wrote. But they said despite the progress, "we are still short of our collective goals." They called increased federal money "critical to sustaining the healthy signs of recovery." Del. Tawanna Gaines, a Prince George's County Democrat, also signed the letter in her capacity as chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, an organization that advises legislators in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania on bay issues. Congress has repeatedly rejected Trump's proposed cuts to the bay program. In his first budget, he proposed eliminating the program; this year and last year, he proposed reducing its budget to \$7.3 million. The federal government is routinely funded through legislation known as continuing resolutions, with the president's budget proposals sometimes serving as a guide depending on which political party controls the legislative and executive branches. Maryland's delegation in Washington has since at least 2017 pushed legislation that would authorize an increase in the bay program's budget to \$90 million. Sue Walitsky, a spokeswoman for Sen. Ben Cardin, said lawmakers would continue to press for authority to make that funding increase, and that in the next round of federal budget negotiations, \$90 million would be Democrats' "starting point." ...

Schuylkill Scrub is a wildly successful cleanup. Can it work for Delaware River in South Jersey?

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER The Schuylkill Scrub has blossomed into a wildly successful cleanup of dirty riverbanks from Schuylkill County to Philadelphia, with 20,000 volunteers expected this year to take part in 800 individual cleanup projects. But can that success be replicated in South Jersey, which suffers the same trash blight in communities along the Delaware River and within its watershed? Starting this weekend, hundreds of folks will try. The Schuylkill Scrub, an annual event that started in 2009, is already underway this year, having started March 1 and continuing through May 31. It is run by the Schuylkill Action Network, a group of 100 partners coordinated by the

nonprofit Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. The event inspired a similar cleanup that began last year in South Jersey, albeit on a smaller scale and with limited reach in Cumberland and Salem Counties. On Saturday, the South Jersey Scrub will take on a much wider swatch from Cape May to above Trenton. "Last year was our first year trying to get things up and running without any funding," said Brittany Musolino with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. "The mission is to prevent trash from reaching the Delaware River and Bay. We're strategically placing different cleanups throughout the area to get a lot of partners involved and have people take pride in their communities. "...

March for Minden planned for June 8

FAYETTE TRIBUNE A local environmental rights group will be staging "March for Minden," a re-enactment march of the 1989 Toxics National Day of Action, to draw attention to the threat of PCB contamination in Minden, and group members are asking local churches, organizations and businesses to help raise awareness. Brandon Richardson, founder of the environmental group Headwaters Defense, said the City of Oak Hill has issued a permit for the march on June 8. The march will follow the route taken by the group Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County in June 1989, as the group was petitioning the EPA for help in cleaning up Minden or relocating residents — a plea that Richardson said was not honored and that is still being made today. "Minden has been faced with the threat of living amongst the toxic chemical, poly-chlorinated biphenyl (PCB) for many decades," Richard said in the press release. "In the 1980s and 1990s, a group of dedicated activists started the Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County to address the issues in Minden after learning of the toxic effects of PCBs. "The purpose of the march is to raise awareness about the issues facing Minden, remember the many lives that have been lost, show support for those that are currently suffering from PCB-related illness, and show respect for the work done by the Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County in the 1980s and 1990s."... Since then, Headwaters Defense and Minden residents have reported an alarming number of those who live in Minden have died of various cancers. Although federal and state health officials have said there is no statistical evidence to show an increased risk of cancer deaths in Minden, residents say that more than 150 people have died or are dying of cancer in the community of 250. "The EPA made many mistakes with this," said Susie Worley-Jenkins of the Minden Community Action Team, which is helping to plan the march. "I hope they get it right, after four attempts to fix it. "The original group was right all along." On Monday, U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., sent a letter to EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, urging Wheeler to add Minden to the EPA National Priorities List. In the letter, Manchin referenced Senate Resolution 76, which the state Legislature passed during the 2019 session. The resolution urges the EPA, ATSDR, the state Department of Environmental Protection, the state Bureau for Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assist Minden residents with both relocation assistance and specialized medical treatment "as a result of their long-term exposure" to PCB, dioxins and other pollutants...

Committee approves plan to reverse cuts at EPA, other agencies

GREENWIRE Billions of dollars could flow to the Interior and Energy departments, as well as EPA, reversing spending cuts proposed by the Trump administration under a plan backed yesterday by Democrats on the House Budget Committee. The committee approved legislation 19-17, squarely along party lines, that would raise discretionary spending caps for fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021, which the White House has used to justify deep domestic cuts. The measure would do so by lifting funding restraints that were originally put in place by the 2011 Budget Control Act. The bill could be on the House floor as early as next week. Budget Chairman John Yarmuth (D-Ky.) said the plan would stop "extreme cuts from being implemented, helps prevent another government shutdown, gets us past the distraction and politics of the 2020 elections, and achieves stability and responsible governing in the face of recklessness."... EPA, which is marked for a more than 30% cut under Trump's budget, and Energy and Interior, which face more modest fiscal 2020 reductions, would likely benefit from any increase in domestic spending. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), chairwoman of the House Interior-EPA Appropriations Subcommittee, said earlier this week she would seek a "significant bump" for fiscal 2020, a request that could be granted under the proposed domestic spending increase. But the House Democrats' plan marks only their opening bid in what are expected to be long, tough negotiations with Senate Republicans and the White House regarding final, fiscal 2020 spending...

Conowingo battle: sides look for alternative as fight drags on

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES It's been half a decade since the Conowingo Dam's operator, Exelon Corp., submitted initial paperwork looking to certify the enterprise for another 50 years. The dam sits in Maryland near the

mouth of the Susquehanna River, just five miles from the Pennsylvania state line. It's historically trapped sediment carried by the river from upstream. But the reservoir behind the Conowingo Dam filled over time, and now sediment and debris pour through the gates during heavy rains. Maryland Department for the Environment approved the project's certification with stipulations that the company help address this pollution. Exelon has argued the cleanup requirements would be too costly and that it's unfair to force them to pay for pollution they don't produce. The two have been dueling it out in legal negotiations that have spilled into several courts. Now, environmental groups and MDE have weighed in against another legal action that Exelon filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in late February. The company contends that the delay in issuance of the permit invalidates the state's right to certify the dam. "Our petition at FERC requests that it follow prevailing law," said Exelon in a statement. "The Conowingo Dam does not produce any pollution, but rather it benefits the Bay by removing a portion of the river debris. "If the company wins the suit, MDE would not be able to impose water quality qualifications on the relicensing of the dam." Exelon is attempting to use every conceivable legal argument and forum to thwart the state's right to restore the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay," said Ben Grumbles, Maryland Secretary of the Environment in a statement. "We will continue to push back."...

Sunoco agrees to settlement, including more safety inspections, with PUC investigators after Mariner East 1 leak

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA If approved, company will pay \$200,000 fine and step up safety inspections of ageing pipeline. Sunoco will pay a \$200,000 fine and conduct more frequent and rigorous safety inspections of the ageing Mariner East 1 pipeline after a leak in 2017, according to a proposed settlement with Public Utility Commission investigators, published Wednesday. The deal, if approved by the full PUC, would require Sunoco to step up its monitoring of the pipeline, which was built in the 1930s, and now carries volatile natural gas liquids through densely populated areas on its 350-mile route across southern Pennsylvania. The line leaked 20 barrels of ethane and propane in Morgantown, Berks County on April 1, 2017 in an incident that the PUC's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement later said was caused by corrosion. The leak caused no injuries or damage to waterways or property, but fueled critics' fears that the highly volatile liquids were being transported unsafely across the state. The eight-inch line, originally built to carry gasoline from eastern to western Pennsylvania, reversed the direction of flow and switched to carrying NGLs in 2014 to pump ethane, butane and propane as part of the multi-billion dollar Mariner East project. In response to concerns about the age and integrity of Mariner East 1, Sunoco agreed to hire an independent consultant to conduct a "remaining life study" of the pipeline to include its leak history, a summary of its top 10 biggest risks, and a description of its corrosion-growth rate...

Amount of toxins released into environment continues to decline

CBS 19 CHARLOTTESVILLE RICHMOND, Va. (CBS19 NEWS) -- The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality says the amount of chemicals being released into the environment each year continues to decline. In the latest Toxic Release Inventory report, the DEQ says 899.96 million pounds of chemicals were managed, transferred or released to the environment in 2017 in the Commonwealth, which was a one-percent decrease. This is a continuation of a positive trend that has seen the amount of chemicals being released drop by 51 percent between 2004 and 2017. "Chemicals released are managed under a wide variety of environmental permits, which ensure that people and the environment are protected," said DEQ Director David Paylor. "This significant downward trend reflects Virginia's continuing efforts to eliminate or reduce pollution at the source of generation. This positive trend is an encouraging sign that all sectors of Virginia's government, business, industry and citizens are adopting pollution prevention measures as part of everyday activities." Comparing 2017 to 2016, 16.5 million pounds were released into the air, which was down 13 percent. There was also a 17-percent decrease in the amount released into waterways, down to 11.29 million pounds. The DEQ says 2.71 million pounds were released to the land, down 16 percent. When talking about persistent bio-accumulative toxins, 245,500 pounds were released, which was a decrease of about half a percent.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Schuylkill Scrub is a wildly successful cleanup. Can it work for Delaware River in South Jersey? The Schuylkill Scrub has blossomed into a wildly successful cleanup of dirty riverbanks from Schuylkill County to Philadelphia, with 20,000 volunteers expected this year to take part in 800 individual cleanup projects. But can that success be replicated in South Jersey, which suffers the same trash blight in communities along the Delaware River and within its watershed? Starting this weekend, hundreds of folks will try. The Schuylkill Scrub, an annual event that started in 2009, is already underway this year, having started March 1 and continuing through May 31. It is run by the Schuylkill Action Network, a group of 100 partners coordinated by the nonprofit Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. The event inspired a similar cleanup that began last year in South Jersey, albeit on a smaller scale and with limited reach in Cumberland and Salem Counties. On Saturday, the South Jersey Scrub will take on a much wider swatch from Cape May to above Trenton. "Last year was our first year trying to get things up and running without any funding," said Brittany Musolino with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. "The mission is to prevent trash from reaching the Delaware River and Bay. We're strategically placing different cleanups throughout the area to get a lot of partners involved and have people take pride in their communities. "...

Pa.'s \$500M nuclear rescue bill: A giveaway to one industry, or a clean-energy salvation? A new version of Pennsylvania's contentious nuclear rescue proposal would steer as much as \$541 million of ratepayer subsidies annually to clean-energy power producers, though in a nod to environmentalists, not all of it would go to nuclear generators. State Sen. Ryan P. Aument, (R., Lancaster), who has led a two-year bipartisan legislative effort exploring a nuclear rescue, introduced a bill on Wednesday that is similar in scope to a House rescue package unveiled last month by State Rep. Tom Mehaffie (R., Dauphin), but different in several critical details. The General Assembly will need to act in the next few months if it wants to avert a threatened closure of Three Mile Island Unit 1, which owner Exelon Generation says is losing money. Aument, in an interview Wednesday, framed the bill as a means to prevent the early closure of zero-carbon power producers, which would largely be replaced by pollutant-emitting fossil-fuel plants. "The goal is not to bail out Exelon," he said. "The goal is not to bail out an industry. The goal is to do all we can in Pennsylvania to promote innovation and clean energy resources."...

Editorial: Street congestion is bad, but solutions exist Congestion on the streets and highways of Philadelphia is bad and getting worse. The city has the ninth-worst congestion in the country, and Philadelphians spend 112 hours a year — almost five full days — tangled up in traffic, according to a recent report by INRIX Inc. But funding for public transportation is under threat. SEPTA relies on revenue from the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and those tolls are the subject of litigation. A group of business leaders and public officials released a report this week detailing options for new transportation revenue — mostly through taxes. At times, it's faster to cross Center City by foot than to take a bus during rush hour. The most direct way to reduce congestion is to reduce the number of cars on the street and have more people use public transportation... As Philadelphia's Center City continues to grow economically, congestion will get worse. The only sustainable solution is to have more people using public transportation. Hopefully, when it comes to transportation policy, gridlock in City Council won't be as bad as gridlock in Center City.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Pa. Senate bill aims to aid state nuclear plants

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

Water provider for some Allegheny Co. communities violated treatment technique Residents of Plum, Monroeville and Duquesne received notice in March that the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) violated a treatment technique. The communities purchase drinking water from MAWC. "As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do and what they are doing to correct this situation," according to the initial notice sent from MAWC that community officials then sent to residents in those communities. The notice said the violation was not an emergency, and there were no health effects

associated with it. Communities in Westmoreland, Fayette and Armstrong counties are also MAWC customers. Matthew Junker, a MAWC spokesman, said a “non-specific indicator of water quality” was below federal and state mandates for Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal, which is set at a ratio of 1.0. The TOC test is used to remove disinfectant byproducts caused by treating the water with chlorine and other disinfectants. “Disinfection byproducts are the formation of regulated compounds due to the interaction of the disinfectant (primarily chlorine) and organic materials (TOC),” said Junker in an email. If those byproducts, such as trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids, are found in excess in drinking water, it can result in liver and kidney problems, nervous system effects and increased risks of getting cancer, said the notice...

STATE IMPACT PENNSYLVANIA (NPR)

State Senate introduces a nuclear bailout bill, similar to \$500 million proposal from House last month Pennsylvania state Sen. Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster) on Wednesday introduced a long-awaited bill aimed at preventing two of the state’s five nuclear plants from retiring early. Senate Bill 510 recognizes the plants as carbon free energy and adds nuclear power to the state’s Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard — a 2004 law requiring electric utilities to buy power from a list of clean and alternative energy sources, like wind and solar. Exelon plans to close its Three Mile Island Unit 1 reactor near Harrisburg in September, and FirstEnergy intends to retire its Beaver Valley plant outside Pittsburgh in 2021. The early closures are part of a broader trend across the U.S. as the nuclear power industry has struggled amid slowing demand for electricity and competition from cheaper natural gas and renewables. Without new policies, natural gas generation is largely expected to take the place of retiring nuclear plants, which would mean higher carbon emissions from the power sector. “Basing long-term energy policy decisions exclusively on what’s cheap today is shortsighted and quite frankly, foolish,” Aument said. “Consumers have a right to expect that when they turn the lights on, the lights come on. And they have a right to expect that we’re going to produce energy in a way that’s going to protect our environment and ensure our children have clean air.”...

Sunoco agrees to settlement, including more safety inspections, with PUC investigators after Mariner East 1 leak If approved, company will pay \$200,000 fine and step up safety inspections of ageing pipeline. Sunoco will pay a \$200,000 fine and conduct more frequent and rigorous safety inspections of the ageing Mariner East 1 pipeline after a leak in 2017, according to a proposed settlement with Public Utility Commission investigators, published Wednesday. The deal, if approved by the full PUC, would require Sunoco to step up its monitoring of the pipeline, which was built in the 1930s, and now carries volatile natural gas liquids through densely populated areas on its 350-mile route across southern Pennsylvania. The line leaked 20 barrels of ethane and propane in Morgantown, Berks County on April 1, 2017 in an incident that the PUC’s Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement later said was caused by corrosion. The leak caused no injuries or damage to waterways or property, but fueled critics’ fears that the highly volatile liquids were being transported unsafely across the state. The eight-inch line, originally built to carry gasoline from eastern to western Pennsylvania, reversed the direction of flow and switched to carrying NGLs in 2014 to pump ethane, butane and propane as part of the multi-billion dollar Mariner East project. In response to concerns about the age and integrity of Mariner East 1, Sunoco agreed to hire an independent consultant to conduct a “remaining life study” of the pipeline to include its leak history, a summary of its top 10 biggest risks, and a description of its corrosion-growth rate...

Judge says Grant Township must pay \$100,000 in legal bills after injection well dispute A Western Pennsylvania township that is seeking to prevent construction of a frack-waste injection well by asserting home rule suffered its latest blow when a federal judge ordered it to pay almost \$103,000 in legal fees to the company that wants to build the well. Judge Susan Paradise Baxter of the U.S. District Court for Western Pennsylvania ordered Grant Township in Indiana County to pay the costs, saying that the township, not its adversary, Pennsylvania General Energy Company, had prolonged a legal fight over whether the well could be built. In a 10-page opinion issued on April 1, the judge also said PGE had clearly prevailed in a suit that challenged the constitutionality of a Community Bill of Rights Ordinance which the township adopted in 2014 in an effort to assert a legal right to block the injection well. After the court ruled the ordinance unconstitutional in 2015, the township adopted its Home Rule Charter, which includes a provision that residents have a right to “be free” of activities that risk harming water, soil or air quality such as a well that collects oil and gas waste...

Read Pennsylvania Senate version of nuclear bailout bill Pennsylvania Sen. Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster) on Wednesday introduced a long-awaited bill aimed at preventing two of the state’s five nuclear plants from retiring early. The bill recognizes the plants as “zero emission” energy sources and adds nuclear power to the state’s Alternative Energy

Portfolio Standard. The 2004 law requires electric utilities to buy power from certain clean and alternative energy sources, like wind and solar. “Including nuclear energy in the state’s alternative energy plans will help level the playing field for the industry and ensure its long-term viability in Pennsylvania’s marketplace while simultaneously protecting ratepayers from higher electricity bills down the road,” Aument said in a statement. The bill comes amid more than two years of intense lobbying on the issue in Harrisburg. Exelon is planning to shutter its Three Mile Island plant near Harrisburg this fall. FirstEnergy intends to retire its Beaver Valley plant ahead of schedule in 2021. The early closures are part of a broader trend across the U.S. as the industry has struggled amid slowing demand for electricity and competition from cheaper natural gas and renewables...

PENNSYLVANIA CAPITAL STAR

Senate proposal to aid Pennsylvania’s ailing nuclear industry comes with same \$450 million price tag A state Senate Republican has unveiled his plan to aid Pennsylvania’s ailing nuclear industry, which would carry a price tag of at least \$450 million, and require energy companies to submit to audits by a state commission. The bill from Sen. Ryan Aument, R-Lancaster, will be introduced Wednesday, almost one month after Rep. Tom Mehaffie, R-Dauphin, brought forth a companion bill in the House. Like Mehaffie’s legislation, Aument’s proposal would amend the state’s clean energy law to designate nuclear energy as a renewable energy resource, and require electricity companies to purchase clean energy credits from nuclear plants. The purchase of those credits would cost between \$450 and \$500 million annually, Aument said. That price would be borne by energy consumers across the state, resulting in rate increases of roughly \$1.53 per month for the average Pennsylvania household. The goal of the policy, Aument said, is to promote clean energy and prevent long-term energy cost increases that would result from the closure of nuclear power plants in Pennsylvania. The owners of two of Pennsylvania’s five nuclear plants have threatened to close their facilities in the next few years if state lawmakers do not make changes. Aument’s district borders one of those plants, Three Mile Island in Dauphin County. “I recognize there is a cost to this program, but I would contend that the cost of doing nothing and kicking the can down the road will be many times greater,” Aument said. “And unfortunately in Harrisburg, we’ve not had a great track record of solving big problems in a timely manner. And they become far more difficult and far more expensive.” But Aument said that he does not want the bill to be a handout to the nuclear industry. To that end, he said, his proposal is different from Mehaffie’s in two ways...

Commentary: Yes, what we don’t know about science can hurt us What do most Americans know about science? If a March 28 Pew Research Center poll is to be believed — not nearly enough. And at a time when knowledge and facts are under assault as they have not been in recent memory, that’s a problem. On the upside, about eight in 10 respondents to the new Pew poll (79 percent) knew that increased resistance is one of the big concerns about the overuse of antibiotics. And more than three-quarters (76 percent) know that an “incubation period” is the time when a person has an infection — but isn’t showing any visible signs of it. Only about four in 10 people (39 percent) were able to correctly identify the main components of antacids. Those are “bases.” And I’ll admit, I’d forgotten that one. Between Jan. 7 and Jan. 21, Pew researchers quizzed 4,464 respondents on their scientific knowledge, asking them 11 different questions. You can take the quiz here. Be warned: It’s humbling. Overall, about four in 10 respondents got between nine and 11 questions correct, which gave them “high scientific knowledge.” About a third got between five and eight questions right, while three in 10 (29 percent) got between zero and three questions correct...

‘The need is really there:’ In rural Dauphin County, Gov. Wolf pitches his infrastructure plan | Analysis MILLERSBURG, Pa. — At the Colonnade Theater on Center Street, there’s Goose Island and Rolling Rock on tap. There are burgers on the menu in the snack bar. And this weekend, Disney’s live action version of “Dumbo” and the “Pet Sematary” remake the world never knew it needed will flicker to life on the theater’s two screens. A decade ago, the Colonnade wasn’t much of anything at all. Its screens dark and the theater in disrepair, local residents departed for Selinsgrove or Harrisburg to catch the latest blockbusters. It was a far cry from a heyday that traced its lineage to the beginning of the silent film era in 1919, through the advent of talkies, and stretched through Hollywood’s golden age, according to a history posted to its official website. The Colonnade finally shut down in 2000 after one of its owners died. The movie house was donated to a local theater group, The Twin Valley Players, who worked tirelessly to keep it afloat. It took a mix of state grant money and \$200,000 in commercial loans to get the Colonnade back on its feet. Supporters took the money and used it to demolish the original building. They built a new theater, which reopened in 2013, on the site. Now, the old Colonnade’s original marquee, highlighted by a swooping, Art Deco capital “C,” hangs in the lobby. The theater group puts on its performances there...

DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES

Energy Transfer to pay another \$200G fine for Mariner East pipeline work HARRISBURG — The heavily fined owner of a pipeline carrying natural gas liquids pipelines across Pennsylvania - including Delaware and Chester counties - is agreeing to another \$200,000 fine and a study on risks to the Mariner East 1 pipeline. Lawyers for a subsidiary of Texas-based Energy Transfer LP submitted the paperwork Wednesday to the state Public Utility Commission, whose members must approve a proposed agreement with agency enforcement lawyers before it becomes final. The case stems from a 2017 leak in Berks County on a section of corroded pipeline. The study must include an analysis of corrosion, structural issues and other threats to the 1930s-era pipeline. Energy Transfer's Mariner East 1, 2 and 2X projects are blamed for polluting waterways in dozens of places and causing sinkholes near homes. Pennsylvania's environmental regulators halted Energy Transfer's construction permits and prosecutors are investigating the projects. Mariner East 1 has been shut down for a month after sinkholes developed for the second time in a year in a Chester County neighborhood. Mariner East 2 went online the last week of December, but not with the full 20-inch pipe originally proposed by the company. Instead, because of various construction delays and work stoppages, the company has been filling in gaps with a smaller, older pipeline. The full 20-inch pipeline now will be finished until at least 2020...

WEST CHESTER DAILY LOCAL NEWS

Living With Mariner East 2 Pipeline Construction In Delaware County THORNBURY—What is it like to live with pipeline construction in your back yard? Chris and Kathy Ventresca reside in the Andover subdivision, at the intersection of Rt. 926 and Rt. 352. Sunoco/ET Mariner East pipeline work goes on less than 100 feet from their kitchen. Chris Ventresca said he lived in Italy for 20 years where earthquakes are common. "Sunoco turned our neighborhood into a construction site," he said. "This is like being through an earthquake." For the past couple of days, while digging went on nearby, the Ventresca Family's drinking glasses in the cabinets, and their furniture, rattled. Their 6-year-old son, who was home sick, thought the house was going to fall down. Furniture shifts, the floor moves and ceiling fans flutter. Chris Ventresca called 911, the township the Delaware County District Attorney, which has an open criminal investigation of Sunoco, and several media outlets. Like about 10 of their neighbors, the family is spending \$600 on an engineering assessment to determine whether their foundation is damaged by drilling and trucks on the nearby right-of-way. "We want to make sure if damage is done that we can sue Sunoco and have them take care of it," Chris Ventresca said. Horizontal Directional Drilling will take place nearby, with underground pipeline construction stretching 7,000 feet to a spot near Ss. Simon and Jude Elementary School, at the intersection of Rt. 3 and Rt. 352. Two pipelines will be installed and Sunoco/ET expects the work to last 200 days for each pipe. Open trenching will take place at Andover. Kathy Ventresca works from home and is worried that pipeline construction might continue to disrupt her job. She said the current Sunoco digging is "very disruptive."

BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES

Editorial: Let The Market Decide The Future Of The Nuclear Industry In PA A Dauphin County state representative has drafted House Bill 11 that would add nuclear energy to the Pennsylvania Alternative Portfolio Standards Act, which requires that 18 percent of the electricity that companies like PECO supply to consumers comes from alternative energy sources by 2021. When we hear the term "alternative energy" we think wind turbines and solar panels, not Three Mile Island. Tellingly, TMI sits just a couple of miles from the edge of state Rep. Thomas L. Mehauffie III's 106th district and is slated to close in October. But, as Mehauffie points out in a memo requesting co-sponsors for his bill, "Pennsylvania's nuclear power plants generate 42 percent of our Commonwealth's electricity and provide 93 percent of the Commonwealth's zero-carbon electricity." ... A group called "Citizens Against Nuclear Bailouts" characterizes the bill as an unnecessary bailout of a profitable industry that will be funded by residents all over Pennsylvania. The coalition's name is misleading. It's actually made up of natural gas industry players along with organizations like AARP Pennsylvania, Americans for Prosperity Pennsylvania, the Taxpayers Protection Alliance and others. But it makes a fair point. While TMI did lose \$37 million for Exelon in 2018, Limerick more than offset those losses with the \$193 million it made. We're not enthused about a program to subsidize the nuclear power industry. Mehauffie said the cost of the bill would be \$500 million per year and a typical monthly electric bill would increase \$1.77 as opposed to an extra \$2.39 if nuclear energy went away. But that's assuming all five plants closed and we're not ready to assume that. We hate to see any Pennsylvanians lose their jobs. But this might be a case where we should let the free market determine the future of these five plants on its own. We do believe we should have a way to reward carbon-free energy generation. But why

would the nuclear industry — the biggest player in the space — take up that worthwhile fight if it already has its reward?

HARRISBURG PATRIOT NEWS

Should Pennsylvanians pay more to subsidize TMI and other nuclear plants? In Pennsylvania, the land of cheap gas-fired power, should we all pay a little extra just to keep nuclear power around? Yes, says Lancaster County state Sen. Ryan Aument, who argues that a new bill introduced Wednesday will keep nuclear in a diverse, all-of-the-above energy pool for years to come at a cost of about \$1.50 per month for the average residential user's electric bill. Aument's bill is the second introduced this year to help higher-cost nuclear energy plants stay competitive - and in some cases, alive - in an energy marketplace that has been revolutionized by the Marcellus Shale fracking boom and slower overall growth for energy demand. Supporters of nuclear, which currently powers about 40 percent of Pennsylvania's electric supply, argue it is the best way to buy long-term energy reliability, protection against price surges in one sector of the market or another, and preserve what happens to be the biggest provider of zero-emissions energy as we intensify the fight against climate change and the greenhouse gases that contribute to it. But opponents, who see themselves as footing the bill, are already lining up to fight it. "Handouts to a profitable industry in Pennsylvania that includes a Fortune 100 company will force Pennsylvania residents, businesses, school districts and others to pay higher electric bills for years," said Michael Peters, president of the Pennsylvania Energy Consumer Alliance, a coalition of businesses, manufacturers, colleges and other organizations that are heavy electric users. "Some advocates are calling this legislation a bailout. It will be a handout to some of the richest energy companies in the world." The essence of Aument's bill is that the free market can't be trusted to help solve issues like climate change....

LANCASTER NEWSPAPERS

New Senate bill to subsidize nuclear power, save Three Mile Island would cost up to \$550 million HARRISBURG — With just two months left to pass legislation that would give the nuclear energy industry a financial boost, state Sen. Ryan Aument on Wednesday introduced his bill aimed at preventing the Three Mile Island plant from its scheduled closing this year. The Landisville Republican said his plan would cost ratepayers between \$450 million and \$550 million annually, ultimately raising the average household electric bill by \$1.53 per month. A similar version of the bill introduced in the House last month was estimated to cost \$500 million total, or about \$1.77 increase per household, sponsor Rep. Tom Mehaffie said. "There is a far greater cost, a far greater impact to consumers, if natural gas were to essentially occupy more of the wholesale electric market," said Aument. Nuclear energy represents 40% of the electricity produced in Pennsylvania and 93% of the state's clean energy output. But with cheaper natural gas taking on a larger role in the market, two of the five nuclear plants are scheduled to close within the next few years — Three Mile Island and Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station in Beaver County. Critics say plans to keep those plants open would restrict the competitive energy market, increase consumers' bills and provide a "bailout" to profitable energy companies. Nuclear proponents say the plants are necessary to meet carbon emission-reducing goals, maintain a diverse energy portfolio and keep consumers' bills down in the long-run. "My goal has been to solve the problem to address the issue now, recognizing there's a cost, but not kick the can down the road for some future generation to try to solve. And we don't have a great track record here in this building of doing that," Aument said from his Capitol office...

PA ENVIRONMENT DIGEST BLOG (By PA DEP)

Draft PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan To Be Released For Public Comment April 12 The draft Phase III PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan is scheduled to be released for public comment on April 12 with a comment period running until June 7, according to DEP's April report to the Citizens Advisory Council ([page 15](#)). The Plan will describe how Pennsylvania intends to move forward and accelerate progress towards meeting the nutrient reduction targets established by the Chesapeake Bay Partnership for the improvement of local water quality and the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay with the goal of having all practices in place by 2025. The Plan will be available on DEP's [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan](#) webpage.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

Environmental Groups Criticize DEP Waste Violation Settlement With PPG HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — PPG Industries Inc. is agreeing to pay \$1.2 million and treat polluted water seeping into the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania from a long-closed waste site, although environmental organizations called it a "slap on the wrist." Pennsylvania's Department of

Environmental Protection and PPG signed the agreement Tuesday. The department says that, from the 1920s until 1970, PPG used an approximately 70-acre site near its Ford City glass manufacturing plant to dump toxic waste that continues to pollute runoff and groundwater. PPG says the agreement demonstrates its commitment to address conditions at the property.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

The Great Barrier Reef is being battered by climate change, and it might only get worse The damage caused in recent years to the Great Barrier Reef by ocean heat waves has compromised the massive reef's ability to recover, and climate change could make the problem more severe in the future, according to research published Wednesday. The world's largest coral reef, which stretches for more than 1,400 miles off the coast of Australia, has suffered four mass "bleaching" events driven by above-average sea temperatures over the past two decades, including back-to-back episodes in 2016 and 2017. Scientists studying the reef's capacity to bounce back from those episodes detailed a disheartening set of findings in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday. Climate change, which has caused extreme heat stress on some reefs, has severely hindered the reef's ability to heal, they found...

Two lanes of Beltway's inner loop reopen after fuel spill near Georgetown Pike

DELAWARE

MIDDLETOWN TRANSCRIPT

Delmarva chicken industry generates \$1.05B in income for workers, farmers Delmarva's meat chicken industry increased its economic output by 18.6% in the past five years by producing 4.3 billion pounds of chicken worth \$3.4 billion in 2018, according to new data released by Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc. The 20,425 chicken company employees on Delmarva earned \$784 million in wages in 2018, and the region's 1,302 chicken growers earned \$268 million in contract income. In total, income earned by employees and farmers associated with Delmarva's chicken industry was \$1.05 billion. Since 1957, DPI has collected and compiled data from the poultry companies operating on Maryland's Eastern Shore, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and in Delaware to gauge the scope and growth of Delmarva's chicken economy. Overall, farmers raised 605 million chickens in 2018, about the same number as were raised in 2017. The chickens were raised in 5,166 chicken houses across Delmarva — 9% fewer chicken houses than were in active use 20 years ago. Modern chicken houses, larger than those built in the past, are more energy-efficient and have climate, feed and water technology that improves bird health. The average Delmarva chicken farm today has four chicken houses in operation. "These numbers reflect certain challenges growers and chicken companies faced in 2018, including downward pressure on prices of all proteins, not just chicken," said DPI Executive Director Holly Porter. "The chicken community on Delmarva used resources efficiently and achieved modest growth in recent years, while at the same time embracing and extending environmental practices that are measurably improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay." ...

DELAWARE STATE NEWS

Dover seeks bids on renewable energy generation DOVER — City of Dover officials, working in conjunction with The Energy Authority (TEA), began soliciting bids for renewable energy generation — solar and/or solar plus storage — on Wednesday in the hopes of diversifying the city's current mix of resources when it comes to energy. Interested bidders are expected to submit an Intent to Bid form, participate in the pre-bid conference and submit their proposal in accordance with request for proposal (RFP) guidelines, according to Gregory Haynes, Renewables Integration Manager for TEA. "The city of Dover has a new initiative," Mr. Haynes said. "They would like the opportunity to increase their new renewable energy platform, either locally, or through a Power Purchase Agreement. This will supplant the amount of non-renewable energy they bring in for the benefit of their customers." He added that the city of Dover is looking to create a future of sustainable energy and its utility customers by providing reliable power with a cleaner, more

sustainable energy resource mix and that it is also taking a step forward with plans to reduce market exposure and carbon footprint, increase self-reliance and be a leader in exceeding regulated utility renewable and sustainability goals...

Letter: Help save the planet now Young people concerned about climate change and pollution are doing wonderful things: organizing, making posters, making speeches, etc. In the future, they will probably drive electric cars, use solar-electric, wind power, and other green technology. One thing that they can do right now is largely being overlooked. They can try to stop buying items made in polluting factories that are also shipped on polluting ships. Chinese factories are historically known for creating large amounts of pollution. In fact, a 2017 study by the Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection found that “nearly 14,000 companies, or 70 percent of the businesses they examined, failed to meet China’s own environmental standards for controlling air pollution” Factories in western countries make pollution, but making Chinese steel creates “2.8 times as much pollution”, making Chinese cast iron is “4.1 times as polluting”, and making “polypropylene (plastic) generates “18.4 times as much CO2” as “clean western factories” Winds from China can carry this pollution to the west coast of the United States. Can ships contribute to pollution? Yes! Most cargo ships burn cheap bunker oil out at sea. This fuel consists mostly of the leftovers from the crude oil refining process. It is very toxic, and it causes environmental damage. A 2009 study “found that it took only 16 bunker fuel burning ships to make as much pollution as all the combustion powered cars, trucks, buses and trains in the world combined.” These ships are exempt from the 2015 Paris Climate Agreements when traveling in international waters just off the coast of the United States to bring Chinese goods to our markets. You don’t have to be a science expert to realize that buying Made In China is not good for the environment. If you are old enough to buy things, and you are concerned about climate change, you are old enough to make informed decisions that help to protect the environment. Don’t be part of the problem; instead, become part of the solution. Reduce your purchases of Chinese products.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE-MAIL

With pipeline permits on hold, Dominion Energy shares news of methane emissions Amid court losses and mounting costs for its natural gas pipeline, Dominion Energy is traveling around the region to share news of plans to mitigate the effects of climate change. The company plans to reduce methane emissions from natural gas infrastructure in half over the next decade, the company announced last month...

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

House Subcommittee To Consider Coal Mine Reclamation Bill A congressional subcommittee will hear testimony Thursday in support of a bill that would help clean up and redevelop surface mine land. The bill enjoys bipartisan support, but still faces hurdles. A 2015 report found that as many as 6.2 million acres of land and water were harmed by mining operations that ended prior to 1977, when significant standards were put in place to protect communities and environments near mine sites. The RECLAIM Act would distribute up to \$1 billion to restore abandoned mines, primarily in Appalachia, and prepare them for future economic development. The money would come from the Abandoned Mine Lands fund, which is supported by a tax on coal. “This bill offers an opportunity for us to provide clean water and a healthy environment for these communities hit by the economic reality of a coal industry in decline,” said Congressman Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), chair of the energy and environment subcommittee that will hear testimony on the measure. “It is only appropriate that the coal industry, the driving force behind the pollution, continue to pay for the health and well-being of these communities.” Eric Dixon, senior policy coordinator at the Appalachian Citizens’ Law Center, is scheduled to testify on the RECLAIM Act. He says the bill would accelerate cleanup of idle mines while spurring economic development once cleanup is complete. “There is real support for this bill,” Dixon said. “It wasn’t made the priority in the House and the Senate that it needed, but we are hopeful that a strong version of

the bill is going to be reintroduced soon, and that we're going to continue to pick up more Republican and Democratic sponsors and move the bill forward." ...

WEST VIRGINIA METRO NEWS

Governor orders change in West Virginia trout stocking CLIFFTOP, W.Va. — The longtime procedure of stocking trout in West Virginia is about to change. Governor Jim Justice wants trout stocked not just in the biggest holes which are easiest to reach with the stock truck, he wants trout deposited at points throughout the Mountain State's trout waters. "If you dump all of those fish into a hole and 40 people stand around casting into that same hole, it's not a terrific angling experience," Justice told a small crowd Wednesday at Babcock State Park. "Not only that, 70 percent of the fish leave within an hour of hitting the water. We've got to stop that." Typically the hatchery sends one or two employees on daily stocking runs. Some of those are long hauls across much of the state and take time. Historically trout are dropped into the stream where it is safest and easiest to access with the truck. Generally bridges and wide spots along the road are the places the fish will be unloaded. Seldom are they carried for any distance to be put into more remote stretches of water. The Governor wants a change...

Water for failing Boone County system would come from Charleston plant CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The state Public Service Commission may make a quick decision on a proposal that would allow West Virginia American Water Company to purchase the Boone-Raleigh Public Service District and replace its failing water system. The PSC held a brief evidentiary hearing on the proposal Wednesday morning in Charleston. The parties involved in the proposed transaction have agreed to the terms of the sale. They filed a joint stipulation and agreement for settlement Monday. The PSD includes approximately 470 customers along state Route 3 passing through several communities including Sylvester and Whitesville. MORE Read terms of settlement [here](#) The terms of the proposed settlement include West Virginia American's purchase of the water system's assets for \$115,000; WVAWC connecting the system to its Kanawha Valley Treatment Plant system and the Boone-Raleigh customers paying the same rate for water as other WVAWC customers. Rates could go up by as much as 58 percent. WVAWC External Affairs Manager Megan Hannah said the system has fallen significantly behind in repairs and upgrades because the rates haven't changed in 17 years. "These customers have not seen a rate change since 2002 which really speaks to the aspects of the system failing. There have been no upgrades to the system," she said. The average Boone-Raleigh PSD customer currently pays about \$33.00 a month for water. The sale could send bills beyond the \$50.00 mark...

FAYETTE TRIBUNE

March for Minden planned for June 8 A local environmental rights group will be staging "March for Minden," a re-enactment march of the 1989 Toxics National Day of Action, to draw attention to the threat of PCB contamination in Minden, and group members are asking local churches, organizations and businesses to help raise awareness. Brandon Richardson, founder of the environmental group Headwaters Defense, said the City of Oak Hill has issued a permit for the march on June 8. The march will follow the route taken by the group Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County in June 1989, as the group was petitioning the EPA for help in cleaning up Minden or relocating residents — a plea that Richardson said was not honored and that is still being made today. "Minden has been faced with the threat of living amongst the toxic chemical, poly-chlorinated biphenyl (PCB) for many decades," Richard said in the press release. "In the 1980s and 1990s, a group of dedicated activists started the Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County to address the issues in Minden after learning of the toxic effects of PCBs. "The purpose of the march is to raise awareness about the issues facing Minden, remember the many lives that have been lost, show support for those that are currently suffering from PCB-related illness, and show respect for the work done by the Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County in the 1980s and 1990s."... Since then, Headwaters Defense and Minden residents have reported an alarming number of those who live in Minden have died of various cancers. Although federal and state health officials have said there is no statistical evidence to show an increased risk of cancer deaths in Minden, residents say that more than 150 people have died or are dying of cancer in the community of 250. "The EPA made many mistakes with this," said Susie Worley-Jenkins of the Minden Community Action Team, which is helping to

plan the march. "I hope they get it right, after four attempts to fix it. "The original group was right all along." On Monday, U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., sent a letter to EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, urging Wheeler to add Minden to the EPA National Priorities List. In the letter, Manchin referenced Senate Resolution 76, which the state Legislature passed during the 2019 session. The resolution urges the EPA, ATSDR, the state Department of Environmental Protection, the state Bureau for Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assist Minden residents with both relocation assistance and specialized medical treatment "as a result of their long-term exposure" to PCB, dioxins and other pollutants...

WHEELING INTELLIGENCER

Editorial: WVU Research Benefits State West Virginia University's role in improving lives and our state as a whole through education is obvious. WVU has made an enormous difference in that regard. Less recognized by most Mountain State residents, however, are the contributions of WVU researchers. They have not gone unnoticed in the science and technology communities. As was pointed out Monday, during a WVU event for journalists, the university is among the nation's top research institutions. It has an R-1 rating from the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education. That sounds nice, doesn't it? But what, exactly, does it mean? More important, how does it affect our state? Consider just a few tidbits gleaned from WVU's research resume:

- According to the FBI, WVU is the national leader in biometrics research. Biometrics is used in a variety of ways, including identification.
- The American chestnut, once a mainstay of eastern forests, was nearly wiped out by a disease in the early 1900s. WVU scientists have successfully cloned the tree.
- R&D Magazine included a new fuel cell technology developed at WVU on its list of the "100 most technologically significant products introduced into the marketplace over the past year."
- The world's first institute dedicated to the study of human memory is at WVU. It is the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute....

There is much more, a substantial amount of it benefiting West Virginians directly. For example, WVU is involved in important research on the implications of Marcellus Shale drilling. The university has important initiatives to help cancer patients directly. In addition, many policymakers in our state rely on WVU researchers for answers to their questions. Research at WVU has clear, substantial benefits to the state's economy — and, beyond any reasonable doubt, will do much more in the future. High technology is the wave of the economic future, it has been said. We in West Virginia already have a hub of high-tech activity, at WVU. Building on it may be our clearest, best path to a better future for everyone in the Mountain State.

WHSV-TV PARKERSBURG

West Virginia farmer switches from raising chickens to growing hemp PENDLETON COUNTY, W.Va. (WHSV) — After the approval of the 2018 Farm Bill legalizing industrial hemp in the U.S., a West Virginia farmer is looking to grow hemp and other CBD products. Mike Weaver was a poultry farmer for several years, working with Pilgrim's Pride in Moorefield, West Virginia. Last year, he joined other poultry growers to voice discontent with the company, saying they hadn't gotten any well-deserved raises for nearly two decades. "When you go to the store, and you pay \$2 or \$3 for a pound of chicken, I get 5 cents of that and I raised that chicken," Weaver told WHSV at the time. Now, he's headed down another avenue. "I'm not going to raise chickens anymore," Weaver said. "Now, I'm developing an operation on my farm to start growing and processing industrial hemp and CBD oil products."...

MARTINSBURG JOURNAL

ATSDR outlines process for exposure assessment in Martinsburg MARTINSBURG — The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has outlined its process for an upcoming exposure assessment scheduled to take place in Martinsburg. The Center for Disease Control and the ATSDR will begin work on eight separate locations across the United States this year and will complete the exposure assessments in 2020 using a "staged approach." To determine the assessment sites, the CDC and ATSDR identified communities near current or former military bases and that are known to have had contact with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in their drinking water. "From these communities, a random selection of households impacted by PFAS in their drinking water will be identified," the ATSDR Office of Communications wrote in an email to The Journal. "Individuals in randomly selected households will be eligible to participate if they are 3 years of age or older, have lived in the community for at least one year, and do not have a

bleeding disorder or are not anemic.” Those exposed to PFAS during their work — such as firefighters, active duty military and veterans — will be able to participate if their household is randomly selected, the ATSDR said. Representative sampling will be used to identify and include participants for the assessment. “This means that participants will be chosen at random and that people cannot simply volunteer,” the ATSDR said. “The advantage of this sampling strategy is that results from participants can give information about community-level exposure. If CDC/ATSDR were to accept volunteers, results could not be used to estimate exposure across a community.” Randomly selected individuals will receive a letter in the mail from the CDC/ATSDR explaining the assessment and registration process and will also receive a phone call from a representative who can answer questions and register them if they are interested in participating. The ATSDR advised there is no compensation for participating in the assessment. “In order to ensure that a sufficient number of participants are included in each exposure assessment to allow for generalizable conclusions about the impacted community, a target for the number of participants in each exposure assessment will be set,” the ATSDR said. “We expect this number to be approximately 400 people. However, each exposure assessment will proceed regardless of whether this target number of participants is obtained.”

BLOOMBERG ENVIRONMENT

West Virginia's Trying to Revive Coal, One Miner Isn't Convinced West Virginia is dangling tax incentives for coal miners in an attempt to revive operations in the heart of Coal Country. At least one miner, Contura Energy Inc., isn't swayed yet. Contura, the biggest U.S. producer of the metallurgic coal that's used to make steel, runs 23 surface and underground mines in the state, and incentives signed into law last week haven't yet persuaded the company to open more, Chief Executive Officer Kevin Crutchfield said. “We've got a pretty solid plan for West Virginia as we look ahead with the projects that we've already announced,” he said Wednesday in a call with analysts, adding that the company would rather “look at projects on their own merits.” West Virginia Governor Jim Justice signed bills on March 27 that established a rebate for coal-mining equipment and reduced a key tax on the industry. While Arch Coal Inc. rallied on the move and trade groups praised it, Contura's response stands to highlight the challenges policy makers face in bolstering an industry trying to grapple with a shrinking market. Demand for the fuel is declining in the U.S., and companies have little interest in expanding -- particularly into the business of thermal coal burned at power plants. That's not to say the incentives won't help anyone: Arch Coal, which said in February that it plans to open a new mine in West Virginia, stands to benefit from the rebate. But Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Andrew Cosgrove called the company a “unique” case as the mine's being built near an existing one and will tap the same reserves. Its proximity will also allow Arch to use some of the same equipment, cutting costs, he said. While Contura mines metallurgical coal—a market that's proven more resilient than thermal—Cosgrove said weakening demand prospects in China may soon drag down prices for even that type. And Contura, as well as other met coal producers, are wary of investing in new operations...

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)

Former Owner of W.Va. Plant Admits Violating Clean Water Act MARTINSBURG, W.Va. (AP) — The former owner of a West Virginia water treatment plant has admitted to discharging untreated sewage into the Potomac River. Federal prosecutors on Wednesday announced that Timothy Peer has admitted to violating the Clean Water Act. The 55-year-old Peer was the owner of the Mountaineer Village Utility plant near Ridgeley, West Virginia. Authorities say he failed to maintain the plant, leading to untreated sewage discharging into the North Branch of the Potomac River. He also admitted to falsely reporting wastewater tests. Peer pleaded guilty to a count of violating permit conditions and a count of making false statement on discharge monitoring reports. He faces up to five years in prison as well as various fines. His attorney declined to comment.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Governors of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware Join Maryland in asking for more Chesapeake Bay funding Pennsylvania, Virginia and Delaware and the mayor of Washington, D.C., joined Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan in asking Congressional

leaders to increase the federal budget for Chesapeake Bay cleanup Tuesday. In a letter released Wednesday, they called on House and Senate committee leaders to spend \$90 million on the federal Chesapeake Bay Program, 23 percent more than the initiative's current budget. Hogan sent a similar letter to top Capitol Hill officials last month, after President Donald Trump's administration proposed cutting the bay program's budget by 90 percent. The bay program, an office of the Environmental Protection Agency based in Annapolis, is seen as a backstop to ensure state and local governments across the Chesapeake watershed do their part to reduce water pollution. "After three decades of collaboration with our federal and jurisdiction partners we are witnessing measured improvements towards clean water," the officials wrote. But they said despite the progress, "we are still short of our collective goals." They called increased federal money "critical to sustaining the healthy signs of recovery." Del. Tawanna Gaines, a Prince George's County Democrat, also signed the letter in her capacity as chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, an organization that advises legislators in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania on bay issues. Congress has repeatedly rejected Trump's proposed cuts to the bay program. In his first budget, he proposed eliminating the program; this year and last year, he proposed reducing its budget to \$7.3 million. The federal government is routinely funded through legislation known as continuing resolutions, with the president's budget proposals sometimes serving as a guide depending on which political party controls the legislative and executive branches. Maryland's delegation in Washington has since at least 2017 pushed legislation that would authorize an increase in the bay program's budget to \$90 million. Sue Walitsky, a spokeswoman for Sen. Ben Cardin, said lawmakers would continue to press for authority to make that funding increase, and that in the next round of federal budget negotiations, \$90 million would be Democrats' "starting point."...

SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

Conowingo battle: sides look for alternative as fight drags on It's been half a decade since the Conowingo Dam's operator, Exelon Corp., submitted initial paperwork looking to certify the enterprise for another 50 years. The dam sits in Maryland near the mouth of the Susquehanna River, just five miles from the Pennsylvania state line. It's historically trapped sediment carried by the river from upstream. But the reservoir behind the Conowingo Dam filled over time, and now sediment and debris pour through the gates during heavy rains. Maryland Department for the Environment approved the project's certification with stipulations that the company help address this pollution. Exelon has argued the cleanup requirements would be too costly and that it's unfair to force them to pay for pollution they don't produce. The two have been dueling it out in legal negotiations that have spilled into several courts. Now, environmental groups and MDE have weighed in against another legal action that Exelon filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in late February. The company contends that the delay in issuance of the permit invalidates the state's right to certify the dam. "Our petition at FERC requests that it follow prevailing law," said Exelon in a statement. "The Conowingo Dam does not produce any pollution, but rather it benefits the Bay by removing a portion of the river debris. "If the company wins the suit, MDE would not be able to impose water quality qualifications on the relicensing of the dam." Exelon is attempting to use every conceivable legal argument and forum to thwart the state's right to restore the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay," said Ben Grumbles, Maryland Secretary of the Environment in a statement. "We will continue to push back."...

WBAL-TV 11 BALTIMORE

Hogan joins regional leaders in effort to stop bay funding cuts BALTIMORE — Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan has joined the governors of Virginia, Delaware and Pennsylvania and the mayor of Washington, D.C., in seeking the federal government to boost funding for the Chesapeake Bay. They sent a letter to congressional leaders, asking them to stop the proposed cuts outlined in the president's 2020 budget proposal. The letter asks to increase funding from \$73 million to \$90 million to help continue the cleanup and restoration of the bay. "This increased federal support and investment in Chesapeake Bay restoration is critical to sustaining the healthy signs of recovery we are now seeing in this national treasure. ... We respectfully ask Congress to consider this \$90 million as part of a final push for restoring the bay that has been central to our nation's history, founding and economic prosperity," the letter states. Hogan previously spoke with Maryland's congressional delegation, pushing for additional funding...

WJZ- CBS BALTIMORE

Governors Ask For \$90 Million To Clean Up The Chesapeake (Video) The governors of four states and the mayor of the District of Columbia are asking Congressional leaders to boost funding for Chesapeake Bay cleanup.

WBOC-TV SALISBURY/DELMARVA

Wallops Holds Quarterly Public Information Meeting WALLOPS ISLAND, Va- NASA's Wallops Flight Facility's held its quarterly public information meeting from 5 to 7 p.m. today at the NASA Wallops Visitors Center. Per their press release, the upcoming Antares launch, the Navy's Field Carrier Landing Practice, and updates on environmental testing are all discussion topics. People in the area visited the center today and said they've been following Wallop's recent activities online, and look forward to the upcoming rocket launch, scheduled for 4:46 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, from Virginia's Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport Pad 0A at NASA Wallops... In addition to landing practices, Wallops personnel will also discuss the facility's latest actions on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). According to Jeremy Eggers, Head of Communications at Wallops, "We've been conducting tests on what is known as PFAS, Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, for almost two years now. One of the things we'll be discussing tonight is how we remain non-detect for PFAS," he said. The meeting will discuss the facility's goals in how to deal with contaminants long term to keep the water quality free of PFAS...

CHESAPEAKE BAY JOURNAL

Hogan holds up Mallows Bay sanctuary to address watermen's fears of losing livelihood It's been four and a half years since the state of Maryland asked the federal government to make Mallows Bay a national marine sanctuary to safeguard the final resting place of a "ghost fleet" of World War I-era ships as well as some even older relics. Despite having broad support, the effort to protect this historic ship graveyard on the Potomac River south of Washington, D.C. has been stalled for a year as Gov. Larry Hogan seeks extra assurance that the state's watermen won't lose their ability to crab, oyster and fish in what would become federally protected waters. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which oversees marine sanctuaries, has repeatedly said that the agency is only interested in protecting the maritime artifacts in Mallows Bay and won't meddle with fishing there. But lawyers for NOAA and Hogan have been unable to reach agreement so far. Advocates say they're frustrated by the delay. "This has been held up by the governor for a year now," said Charlie Stek, chairman of a coalition of groups pursuing the marine sanctuary designation. "It's ridiculous. There's such a tiny minority of people who've raised concerns here," he added, asserting that "all their concerns have been addressed." Not so, countered Robert T. Brown, president of the Maryland Watermen's Association. While recreational anglers, kayakers, conservationists, local officials and many others are enthusiastic about making Mallows Bay a sanctuary, Brown said he has yet to see an ironclad guarantee from NOAA that it will never invoke its legal authority to regulate or restrict commercial fishing in the proposed sanctuary...

EASTON STAR DEMOCRAT

Chesapeake Bay Program gives Bay water quality highest score to date EASTON — The Chesapeake Bay Program released its annual Bay Barometer Report, with scientists from the organization outlining details of the report during a conference call April 2. Chesapeake Bay Program Director Dana Aunkst said the program's Bay Barometer had shown that "nutrient and sediment pollution entering local waterways has declined." He said this was in major part due to the local government eco-friendly initiatives to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, as well as residents living within the water shed. Aunkst said since the organization has started monitoring the grasses, underwater foliage had spread over more than 100,000 acres. The program also has conserved over 1.3 million acres throughout the watershed, he said. Forest buffers however, only had 56 miles of the 900-mile goal planted in 2018, Aunkst said. "But as with anything, this progress should be approached with caution, there are still several areas that need our support and attention," Aunkst said. Brooke Landry, Chesapeake Bay Program's Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Workgroup chairwoman said in 2017, about 104,843 acres of underwater grasses were mapped throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. This is the highest amount of acreage recorded since 1984, also the first time since that more than 100,000 acres had been mapped, Landry said. Landry said the Chesapeake Bay Program mapped the aquatic grasses because they are the most visible indicator of water quality and overall Bay health. Landry said the grasses also aid ecosystems, provide habitat and refuge and control erosion. "By knowing where they are and conversely where they aren't, we know where those ecosystems are being provided or not and it helps us to concentrate restoration efforts," Landry said...

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NEWS

Chesapeake Bay water quality reaches all-time high since 1985 The water quality of the Chesapeake Bay was reported to be the cleanest since testing began in 1985, reaching a record high of 42 percent of bay water meeting clean water standards between 2015 and 2017, the Chesapeake Bay Program announced recently. The regional partnership attributed the improvements largely to reductions in algae growth and increases in underwater grass abundance and

dissolved oxygen in the open waters of the bay. As a key indicator of the bay's health, the bay's water quality has been monitored since 1985. New research published by the bay program described the trends seen in the water quality of the bay "positive and statistically significant," according to a release from the organization. The bay program said the findings show that the bay is resilient, and recovery efforts invested by various partners to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution are working. While there's cause to celebrate, bay experts also noted the reality that 58 percent of tidal waters are still considered impaired and the impact of last year's record rainfall remains to be seen. Heavy rain not only leads to high river flows and heavy flooding, as it did last year, it also washes a large amount of fresh water into the bay, bringing more sediments and nutrients into bay waters. "I'm pretty confident to say that 2018 will not be a continuation of that positive trend," Jeremy Testa, assistant professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons, said by phone last month...

Letter: Clean Energy Act should become law I would like to sincerely thank The Enterprise for drawing attention to many of these important issues, in particular the Clean Energy Jobs Act. We are in dire need of this bill's passage as our ever-increasingly heated political and environmental climates show no sign of cooling down. As a local Maryland resident and constituent, I have noticed rapid changes in rainfall patterns over the last several years. This pattern greatly concerns me as sudden and heavier rainstorms have begun affecting local farmers who provide food to our communities. Since farming remains Maryland's main industry, heavier rain patterns will not only threaten food production, but our economy as well. If the Clean Energy Jobs Act is not passed, then these effects would continue to worsen as fossil fuels will drive our climate passed a threshold of recovery. As Maryland has seen an increase in summer-like weather over the last hundred years, natural human pathogens in the area have also seen a population increase. Conversely, seagrass in the Chesapeake Bay has been decreasing, causing habitat loss for small crabs and fish, who play integral roles in the local food chains, which ultimately affect our seafood and aquaculture industries. Continuing the coverage of the Clean Energy Jobs Act will greatly increase the likelihood of this bill's passage as more residents will feel empowered to express concerns to Del. Brian Crosby (D-St. Mary's). I thank Del. Crosby for supporting this important bill. I hope he does everything he can to get it passed. Let's all make this rising global issue a personal one.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)

Gov. Hogan, Four Counterparts Call For Chesapeake Bay Funding Boost ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — The governors of four states and the mayor of the District of Columbia are asking Congressional leaders to boost funding for Chesapeake Bay cleanup. The governors of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Delaware and the mayor of Washington, D.C., called on House and Senate committee leaders in a letter released Wednesday to oppose proposed cuts to the federal Chesapeake Bay Program. Instead, they want an increase in funding from \$73 million to \$90 million. Last month, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan sent a similar letter to top Congressional leaders after President Donald Trump's administration proposed cutting the program's budget by 90 percent. Hogan is the chair of the Chesapeake Executive Council, which creates policy direction for the restoration and protection of the nation's largest estuary.

VIRGINIA

WAVY-TV NORFOLK

Navy: Tests show drinking water at off-base housing in Chesapeake is safe CHESAPEAKE, Va. (WAVY) -- The Navy says recent test results show the drinking water for off-base housing around the Hampton Roads-Northwest Annex near Chesapeake is safe. Earlier this year, there was concern about whether certain chemicals used by the Navy had migrated through groundwater to private drinking water wells. The Navy decided to sample private drinking wells in designated areas neighboring Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads - Northwest Annex near Chesapeake. They wanted to make sure that certain chemicals used by the Navy hadn't migrated through groundwater to private drinking water wells. A Navy spokesman says in the latest sampling, very little PFAs -- which are chemicals used in firefighting foam -- were detected in the water. In the places they were detected, they were below the limits set by the EPA. "There hasn't been any remediation done because it hasn't been required based on the levels that were detected. Of the 67 samples, 58 of them came back with no detections at all," said Capt. Jonathan Kline, Commanding Officer of Naval Support Activity

Hampton Roads. The Navy says it is sending out postcards to surrounding residents -- if they would want a second sample of their well water just to be sure.

ROANOKE TIMES

Commentary: Emerging contaminants in our waters In recent decades, significant scientific progress in the arena of water quality analysis has enabled scientists to (1) detect new contaminants in our waters which may have actually existed over a long period of time; and (2) measure contaminant concentration (amount) in water at trace (very low) levels. Emerging contaminants include but not limited to pathogenic (disease causing) microorganisms, estrogens/hormones, pharmaceuticals and household products which as yet little data are available about their impact on human health and ecosystem. The EPA collects data and periodically updates the drinking water Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) (<https://www.epa.gov/ccl>) and it was last updated in 2016. Several candidate microbial pathogens and chemicals are listed. Pathogenic microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, and protozoa) in natural waters — some are natural habitants — mostly originate from animal waste, sewer and septic systems (human waste) and urban stormwater runoff. Pathogens pose a risk to human health through various uses of water. Conventional water treatment technologies for disinfection were generally considered effective for removing pathogens from water, but in 1993, *Cryptosporidium parvum* (a disinfectant-resistant protozoan pathogen) in drinking water was the cause of the largest waterborne disease outbreak in U.S. history. This outbreak affected more than 400,000 people in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and caused more than 100 deaths. Waterborne disease outbreaks associated with recreational water are common and attributed to the use of public pools, hot tubs, rivers, lakes, beaches, and water fountains. Shellfish contaminated via waterborne routes can impact human health through the food chain such as oyster consumption...

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS

Letters: Speak up about Chesapeake Bay protections Improvements (to the Chesapeake Bay water quality) are the result of actions taken by federal, state and local governments as they worked to implement the Clean Water Blueprint (TMDL Pollution diet) and adhere to regulations of the Clean Water Act. These efforts have been ongoing for several years and scientists and advisors are now seeing the beneficial outcome. There are top-down changes being considered at the federal level that will result in a devastating loss of the hard earned gains. The administration proposed funding cuts which has been vital in coordinating restoration work. And it's equally troubling that the EPA is planning to roll back the Clean Water Act. These proposed changes mean that thousands of miles of streams and roughly half of the nation's wetlands will no longer be protected. The time to speak up is now! Submit a comment to the EPA asking them not to roll back protections. They are accepting comments until April 15. We can't celebrate improvements in water quality when we see upstream pollution making it's way downstream.

CBS 19 CHARLOTTESVILLE

Amount of toxins released into environment continues to decline RICHMOND, Va. (CBS19 NEWS) -- The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality says the amount of chemicals being released into the environment each year continues to decline. In the latest Toxic Release Inventory report, the DEQ says 899.96 million pounds of chemicals were managed, transferred or released to the environment in 2017 in the Commonwealth, which was a one-percent decrease. This is a continuation of a positive trend that has seen the amount of chemicals being released drop by 51 percent between 2004 and 2017. "Chemical released are managed under a wide variety of environmental permits, which ensure that people and the environment are protected," said DEQ Director David Paylor. "This significant downward trend reflects Virginia's continuing efforts to eliminate or reduce pollution at the source of generation. This positive trend is an encouraging sign that all sectors of Virginia's government, business, industry and citizens are adopting pollution prevention measures as part of everyday activities." Comparing 2017 to 2016, 16.5 million pounds were released into the air, which was down 13 percent. There was also a 17-percent decrease in the amount released into waterways, down to 11.29 million pounds. The DEQ says 2.71 pounds were released to the land, down 16 percent. When talking about persistent bio-accumulative toxins, 245,500 pounds were released, which was a decrease of about half a percent.

MISCELLANEOUS

BLOOMBERG ENVIRONMENT

Toxicity Study of Chemours' GenX Expected by Year's End, EPA Says The EPA plans to complete a study by the end of 2019 assessing the toxicity of GenX, a contaminant that has been found in some of North Carolina's waterways, an agency official said April 3. And the agency has started laying the groundwork for developing water quality criteria to protect human health and aquatic life from perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), Deborah Nagle, director of EPA's Office of Science and Technology within the Office of Water, told a gathering of drinking water and wastewater officials. PFOA and PFOS are part of a family of toxic chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). GenX, was developed by the Chemours Co. to replace PFOA. These compounds are used to make stain-resistant coatings for carpets, rain gear, fast food wrappers, and frying pans. The Environmental Protection Agency develops national recommended water quality criteria that states can adopt as water quality standards to protect their rivers, lakes, and streams. The agency's intentions to assess GenX and develop criteria were spelled out in its Feb. 14 action plan to address the widespread contamination from PFAS chemicals. North Carolina has found evidence that air emissions from Chemours' Fayetteville Works facility were causing widespread contamination of the state's waterways, including the Cape Fear River. PFAS compounds may cause adverse health effects at sufficient levels of exposure, including developmental harm to fetuses, testicular and kidney cancer, liver damage, immune system or thyroid effects, and changes in cholesterol, according to the EPA.

EPA Enforcing Health Advisory for Fluorinated Chemicals: Wheeler The EPA is enforcing an advisory level for two ubiquitous chemicals contaminating drinking water across the country, Administrator Andrew Wheeler said April 3. The Environmental Protection Agency has come under fire from local, state, and federal lawmakers for not acting quickly to set enforceable limits on poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS, in drinking water. The PFAS family includes thousands of chemicals, including PFOA (perfluorooctanoate) and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate). They have been used to manufacture nonstick and stain-resistant coatings in clothing, fast-food wrappers, carpets, and other consumer and industrial products. The EPA advises not consuming more than 70 parts per trillion of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water over one's lifetime, as established in its 2016 advisory. "We are enforcing our health advisory of 70 parts per trillion," Wheeler said in a hearing on EPA's budget held by the Senate Appropriations Committee's Interior-EPA panel. "We've taken, I believe, eight enforcement actions along with the states." ...

EPA Suspends Health Hazard Assessments for Multiple Chemicals The EPA is suspending work on its assessments of the potential adverse health effects of human exposure to 10 chemicals, including ammonia and formaldehyde. The Environmental Protection Agency's Integrated Risk Information System program, also known as IRIS, is shifting its focus away from 10 chemicals to focus its limited resources on other assessments, the agency said. The agency announced April 2 it will suspend its assessments of ammonia, chloroform, ethylbenzene, formaldehyde, manganese, naphthalene, nitrite, nitrate, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon mixtures, and uranium. The agency is instead shifting its focus toward chemicals of growing concern on the national stage, including poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. In many cases, the agency was re-assessing the chemicals as a result of updated research or to focus on other potential health effects. Without the re-assessments, regulators may rely on information from assessments the agency created in the 1980s or 1990s...

Air Quality Panels Cut Because They Took Too Long, EPA Head Says The slow pace of panels of outside scientists charged with helping EPA evaluate air quality standards was hampering the agency's ability to meet its deadlines, EPA head Andrew Wheeler said April 3. It was the first time Wheeler has explained a reason for his October decision to disband panels of independent scientists, engineers, and other specialists who served on subcommittees of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). The congressionally mandated committee is tasked with helping the EPA review the science underpinning federal air quality standards for ozone, particulate matter, and four other pollutants. The EPA is required to review its air quality limits every five years, but has rarely met that timeline. The agency must complete its review of standards for both ozone and particulate matter by December 2020...

GREENWIRE / E&E NEWS

Committee approves plan to reverse cuts at EPA, other agencies Billions of dollars could flow to the Interior and Energy

departments, as well as EPA, reversing spending cuts proposed by the Trump administration under a plan backed yesterday by Democrats on the House Budget Committee. The committee approved legislation 19-17, squarely along party lines, that would raise discretionary spending caps for fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021, which the White House has used to justify deep domestic cuts. The measure would do so by lifting funding restraints that were originally put in place by the 2011 Budget Control Act. The bill could be on the House floor as early as next week. Budget Chairman John Yarmuth (D-Ky.) said the plan would stop "extreme cuts from being implemented, helps prevent another government shutdown, gets us past the distraction and politics of the 2020 elections, and achieves stability and responsible governing in the face of recklessness."... EPA, which is marked for a more than 30% cut under Trump's budget, and Energy and Interior, which face more modest fiscal 2020 reductions, would likely benefit from any increase in domestic spending. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), chairwoman of the House Interior-EPA Appropriations Subcommittee, said earlier this week she would seek a "significant bump" for fiscal 2020, a request that could be granted under the proposed domestic spending increase. But the House Democrats' plan marks only their opening bid in what are expected to be long, tough negotiations with Senate Republicans and the White House regarding final, fiscal 2020 spending...

EPA: Water chief: Agency setting 'very precise' groundwater stance EPA water chief David Ross says the agency will reveal its stance on pollutants that make their way to surface water via groundwater "in the very near future." Ross spoke this afternoon at a National Water Policy Fly-In event at the Hyatt Regency near Capitol Hill to water and wastewater managers from across the country. There, he was asked about EPA's position on the question and what the agency planned to do now that the Supreme Court has agreed to hear *County of Maui, Hawaii v. Hawaii's Wildlife Fund*. "We are developing a very precise position, recognizing that we have conflicting case law," he said. "It won't answer all questions, but it will provide some framework under which folks can operate." Ross did not say whether that would come in the form of guidance or an actual regulation, nor did he hint at what that position would be...

EPA: Lawmakers press Wheeler on spending cuts, climate change Democratic senators today pressed EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler about President Trump's proposal for drastic budget cuts at his agency. Wheeler testified this morning before the Senate Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. He had to defend the White House fiscal 2020 budget for EPA, which would give the agency about \$6.1 billion, slashing nearly a third of its current funds at roughly \$8.8 billion. The EPA chief was also questioned about declining staffing at the agency as well as proposals to curtail various environmental regulations. In his opening statement, Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.), the subcommittee's ranking member, said he was relieved that Wheeler's predecessor, Scott Pruitt, is "no longer dominating the news cycle with daily scandals. But the bottom line is that I don't see much of a change in terms of policy."...

Public Health: EPA-funded group: Life expectancy shrinking because of bad air Dirty air will shave almost two years off the average life expectancy of a child born today, according to a worldwide overview that finds that nations are making uneven progress toward confronting the problem. Overall, indoor and outdoor air pollution contributed to almost 5 million early deaths in 2017, the Health Effects Institute said in its third annual "State of Global Air" report released today. Among the risk factors for early death, it ranks fifth, behind such forces as high blood pressure and tobacco exposure, but ahead of alcoholism and malnutrition. The highest toll came from exposure to fine particles, technically known as PM2.5 because they are no more than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, or one-thirtieth the width of a human hair. In 2017, PM2.5 exposure contributed to 2.9 million premature deaths, the report estimates. Already linked to an array of heart and lung problems, inhalation of such particles is now the third highest risk factor for development of type 2 diabetes. More than 90% of the world's population lived in areas that exceeded the World Health Organization's PM2.5 exposure guideline. Exposure to ozone, a lung irritant closely associated with production and use of fossil fuels, helped lead to an additional 472,000 premature deaths in 2017, according to the report. For newborns today, the cumulative effect is that they will die 20 months earlier on average. The impact is even more pronounced in India and other South Asian nations because of exposure to unhealthy household air stemming from the use of wood, coal and other solid fuels for cooking. The total "life expectancy loss" for a child born there today is 30 months...

'Green Real Deal' introduced to counter Green New Deal Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) today formally rolled out the "Green Real Deal" a counteroffer to the Green New Deal, soliciting cheers and jeers from the right. Gaetz, who once introduced a one-sentence bill to abolish EPA, blasted Republicans who ignore or deny climate science. He sold his resolution, to be introduced with Rep. Francis Rooney (R-Fla.), as a rational rebuttal that does not politicize the issue like the Green New Deal. "History will judge harshly my Republican colleagues who deny the science of climate change," Gaetz told

reporters at a news conference outside the Capitol. "Similarly, those Democrats as a basis to regulate out of existence the American experience will face the harsh reality that their ideas will fail." Gaetz is a close ally of the president and a frequent guest on the Fox News airwaves. While President Trump has repeatedly denied science and shared false theories about climate and renewable energy, Gaetz's resolution is in some ways a climate pitch to the populist base that helped Trump take the White House...